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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/29/01 12:02pm
Subject: United States v. Microsoft Corp. Settlement

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This is not a legal memorandum. As an elder member of the computing community, I bring to this commentary 45 years of experience.

My education and practical experience with computers and their software began in 1956. My age (70) and health have slowed me down a bit, but I am still a licensed electrical engineer and CPA. I, and the companies I work for, are users of Microsoft, IBM, and Oracle products. In the past, Sun Microsystems has been a source of hardware and software. My experience with IBM dates back to 1956.

During that 45-year period, I have seen many companies enter and leave the computer industry. Ultimately, the companies that remain do so because users perceive VALUE in their products. I see little practical difference in the business practices of Microsoft, IBM, Oracle and Sun. If anything, Microsoft and IBM do a better job of supplying the needs of the small businesses that I am associated with. Two examples follow: First, I regularly receive notices of free and low-cost education from Microsoft. Second, IBM (through American Express) offers quality hardware at very attractive prices. In contrast: Although I have been an Oracle customer for years, I rarely hear anything from them - and special offers of products and education are rarely included. Sun Microsystems treats us like we don't exist!

Why do I mention IBM, Oracle and Sun in this commentary? After all, Microsoft is on trial here. I do mention these companies because they, directly and indirectly, have financed the anti-settlement campaign in at least a dozen States of the Union. I don't think that the DOJ Antitrust Division should become further involved in what is really bitter personal rivalries between top executives of the above four companies. That is not in the public interest.

In conclusion, I support the proposed Settlement. It is time to move on to other issues.

Robert John Lambird, PE, CPA